

UNCLASSIFIED

P800140-0594

E-361

FABRE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 12/93

October 21, 1983

(X) RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions

MR. Cases Only:
EO Citations

() CLASSIFY as () S of ()
() DOWNGRADE IS to () S or () D OAC

Dear Senator Glenn:

I am replying to your inquiry of September 23 concerning the plight of Igor Guberman, whom Soviet authorities have denied permission to emigrate and who is now imprisoned in the USSR, and Raoul Wallenberg who disappeared in Budapest, Hungary, in 1945, after the Soviet occupation of that city near the end of World War II.

The United States Government has sought on all appropriate occasions to encourage Soviet authorities to adopt a less repressive policy toward those, such as Mr. Guberman, who seek to exercise their right to emigrate from the USSR or to defend Jewish culture. These rights are emphasized in the Helsinki Final Act, and we encourage the Soviets to uphold the pledges which they made in signing that document. We have also expressed to the Soviets our concern over the fate of Mr. Wallenberg.

We have followed the Guberman case closely since his arrest last September. We have learned that his trial, which began on March 11, has ended with his conviction and a sentence of five years in an ordinary regime labor camp. According to our information, Mr. Guberman was convicted under Article 208 of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic criminal code (sale or possession with intent to sell, of goods known to have been acquired by criminal means).

Thus Mr. Guberman, a participant in the samizdat publication, Jews in the USSR, has been convicted exclusively on a non-political article of the law. We are aware that other human rights activists have also been prosecuted under such articles, in an apparent effort to discredit them and isolate them from their supporters.

We will continue to monitor Mr. Guberman's situation in the hope it may prove possible in some way to help him. One of my colleagues in the Department recently met with Mr. Yuli Fitelevich, head of the Guberman Rescue Committee, to discuss the case. We also continue to seek information pertinent to Mr. Wallenberg's case.

The Honorable
John Glenn,
United States Senate.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

I can assure you that we will do all we appropriately can to help Mr. Guberman and others who have been denied the right to emigrate and in some cases imprisoned. These rights questions, including the right to emigration and family reunification, will be a basic U.S. priority at the upcoming CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid, where we intend to conduct a thorough review of implementation of the Helsinki Final Act.

Our focus at Madrid will be on the principles which underlie the Final Act. We plan to illustrate these principles with reference to specific cases of abuse or progress, where appropriate. We hope by underscoring the depth and persistence of our concern to encourage improved implementation of our pledges in the future. We will continue to pursue this goal through our bilateral contacts with the Soviet Union.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

Drafted: FUF/SCV: CWCL: FUF/FFM: JCU: Cunningham: rs
2/30/80, ext. 21712 ext. 23198 #129-0929 0 272
Cleared: FUF/SCV: PKC: FUF: RLB: Barry
FUF: RLB: Barry
F: T: Towell

UNCLASSIFIED